

What is claimed is:

Claim 1. A floatation enhancing attachment for use with an infant carrier, the floatation enhancing attachment comprising:

a floatation element attached to the infant carrier to extend along a first side of the infant carrier, around a back portion of the infant carrier and along a second side of the infant carrier.

Claim 2. The invention in accordance with claim 1 wherein the infant carrier has a handle and further comprising a second floatation element attached to the handle of the infant carrier.

Claim 3. The invention in accordance with claim 2 further comprising the second floatation element extending from the first floatation element proximate the first side of the infant carrier to that portion of the first floatation element proximate the second side of the infant carrier.

Claim 4. The invention in accordance with claim 1 further comprising a first strap attached to the first floatation element, the strap extending along the front of the seat ;

a second strap attached to the first floatation element and attached to the seat of the carrier.

Claim 5. A child carrier comprising a seat portion having a first side, a back, a second side, and a front; the sides, the back and the front terminating at an upper edge of the seat, a handle attached to the seat and extending over the seat from the first side of the seat to the second side of the seat, the improvement comprising:

a first floatation element attached to the child carrier, the flotation element extending along the first side of the seat, around the back of the seat and along the second side of the seat;

a second flotation element extending from the first flotation element proximate the first side of the seat to that portion of the first flotation element proximate the second side of the seat, the second flotation element attached to the handle of the seat;

a first strap attached to the first floatation element, the strap extending along the front of the seat ;

a second strap attached to the first floatation element and attached to the seat of the carrier.

Claim 6. The invention in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the first and second elements are floatation enhancing media.

Claim 7. The invention in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the flotation enhancing media is a foam material.

Claim 8. The invention in accordance with Claim 7 wherein the foam material is a mass of expanded foam in the shape of an elongated tube.

Claim 9. The invention in accordance with Claim 7 wherein the foam material is stacked in layers to form the first and second elements.

Claim 10. The invention in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the floatation enhancing media is an air-tight bladder.

Claim 11. The invention in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the floatation enhancing media is covered with a fabric cover.

Claim 12. The invention in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the floatation enhancing media is a material of high visibility.

Claim 13. The invention in accordance with Claim 11 wherein the fabric cover comprises a synthetic woven material.

Claim 14. The invention in accordance with Claim 11 wherein the fabric cover is a material having high visibility.

Claim 15. A floatation enhancing attachment for use with an infant carrier, the floatation enhancing attachment comprising:

- a floatation element capable of being attached to the infant carrier to extend along a first side of the infant carrier, around a back portion of the infant carrier and along a second side of the infant carrier;

- a second floatation element capable of being attached to a handle of the infant carrier, the second floatation element extending from the first floatation element proximate the first side of the infant carrier to that portion of the first floatation element proximate the second side of the infant carrier;

- a first strap attached to the first floatation element, the strap extending along the front of the infant carrier ;

- a second strap attached to the first floatation element and attached to the infant carrier.

Claim 16. The invention in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the first and second floatation enhancing elements are covered with a fabric cover.

Claim 17. The invention in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the first and second floatation elements are of a material having high visibility.

Claim 18. The invention in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the fabric cover comprises a synthetic woven material.

Claim 19. A method of improving an infant carrier comprising attaching a floatation enhancing structure to the infant carrier whereby the infant carrier is supported in an upright and normal position of repose when placed on the surface of a significant body of water.

Claim 20. The method in accordance with Claim 19 wherein the floatation enhancing structure comprises:

- a first floatation element attached to the infant carrier, the flotation element extending along a first side of the infant carrier, around a back of the infant carrier and along a second side of the infant carrier;

- a second flotation element extending from the first flotation element proximate the first side of the infant carrier to that portion of the first flotation element proximate the second side of the infant carrier, the second flotation element attached to a handle of the infant carrier;

- a first strap attached to the first floatation element, the strap extending along the front of the infant carrier;

- a second strap attached to the first floatation element and attached to the infant carrier.